



MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS

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February 8, 2016

MISSOURI PROSECUTORS JOIN 20 STATES AT BEST PRACTICES MEETING

On February 4, 2016, senior prosecutors from 20 states participated in a National Meeting of Statewide Best Practices Committees for Prosecutors to discuss the diverse and numerous accomplishments of committees throughout the country. Best Practices Committees are non-partisan bodies of prosecutors that include elected and senior prosecutors from urban, suburban, and rural districts throughout a state. The committees gather, disseminate, and examine information on the latest developments in criminal justice and community safety.

MAPA's delegation to the meeting included Pulaski County Prosecuting Attorney and MAPA President Kevin Hillman, Stone County Prosecuting Attorney and MAPA Best Practices Committee Co-Chair Matt Selby, Platte County Prosecuting Attorney Eric Zahnd, and MAPA Executive Director Jason Lamb.

"Missouri's prosecutors are committed to protecting the rights of the guilty and the innocent," said Selby. "We are proud of Missouri's leadership in this national movement and are continually striving to improve procedures and techniques that seek justice."

The National Meeting created a forum for committee members from California, Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia to discuss their progress and to share effective approaches to organizing and running a Best Practices Committee. Also in attendance were representatives from the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), and the National Juvenile Justice Prosecution Center at Georgetown University.

Missouri was the second state in the nation to establish a Best Practices Committee through the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (MAPA). Formed in September 2013, MAPA's committee has already issued recommendations to prosecutors relating to improving communication with crime laboratories, seeking blood samples from drunk drivers who refuse breath tests, recording suspect interviews on crimes against persons, efficient collection of child support and protecting victims' rights.

For further information on the Best Practices initiative, please contact Kristine Hamann at khamann@pceinc.org

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